WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thermographic material having an inherent D_{min} and D_{max} optical density, comprising:

a support having thereon one or more thermally-developable imaging layers which are developable to produce an image when the thermographic material is thermally imaged; and

an area disposed along a length of at least one edge of the thermographic material, which when thermally imaged, has an optical density less than the D_{max} and greater than the D_{min} of the thermographic material.

2. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area is spaced from the at least one edge by at least about 0.1mm.

3. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area is spaced from the at least one edge by less than about 0.5mm.

4. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area extends from the at least one edge by no more than about 25mm.

5. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area comprises a uniform optical density of between about 20 percent and about 80 percent of the D_{max} of the thermographic material.

6. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area has been thermally developed to provide a uniform optical density of between about 1.2 OD to about 2.5 OD.

7. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the thermographic material is adapted to be thermally processed using a thermal imaging apparatus, and the thermographic material is presented to the thermal

imager along the at least one edge such that the at least one edge is a leading edge when transported through the thermal imager.

8. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the thermally-developable imaging layers comprise a binder and in a reactive association, a non-photosensitive source of reducible silver ions and a reducing composition for the reducible silver ions.

9 The thermographic material of Claim 19, wherein the area comprises a half-tone style image.

10. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area is comprised of a plurality of dots of D_{min} and D_{max}.

11. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein the area comprises a non-uniform gradient optical density.

12. The thermographic material of Claim 1, further comprising a protective overcoat, wherein the protective overcoat is comprised of at least a binder and an isocyanate compound, and wherein the amount of isocyanate compound in the protective overcoat is at least about 5% by weight of the binder.

13. The thermographic material of Claim 1, wherein at least one the thermally-developable imaging layers comprises a binder and an isocyanate compound, and wherein the amount of isocyanate compound in the imaging layer is at least about 2% by weight of the imaging layer binder.

14. The thermographic material of Claim 1, further comprising a protective overcoat, wherein the protective overcoat is comprised of at least a mixture of two or more binders, and wherein at least one of the overcoat binders is

an acrylic or methacrylic acid ester polymer and is present in an amount of at least about 5% of the total overcoat binder.

15. The thermographic material of Claim 14, wherein the acrylic or methacrylic acid ester polymer is poly-methylmethacrylate.

16. A method of thermally processing in a thermographic imaging apparatus, a thermographic material comprising a support having thereon one or more thermally-developable imaging layers, the method comprising the steps of:

thermally imaging an area along at least one edge of the thermographic material such that, when imaged by a thermal imager, the image density of the area will be less than a D_{max} and greater than a D_{min} of the thermographic material; and

providing means to transport the thermographic material through the thermographic imaging apparatus such that the edge is first transported through the thermal imager.

17. A method of forming a visible image in a thermographic imaging apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

thermally imaging a first area of a thermographic material to form an image, the thermographic material comprising a support having thereon one or more thermally-developable imaging layers which are developed when the thermographic material is thermally imaged by a thermal imager;

thermally imaging a second area, different than the first area, of the thermographic material disposed along a leading edge of the thermographic material such that, when thermally imaged by the thermal imager, the second area has an image density less that the D_{max} and greater than the D_{min} of the thermographic material; and

transporting the thermographic material through the thermographic imaging apparatus such that the leading edge first contacts the thermal imager.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

thermally imaging a third area, different from the first and second areas, of the thermographic material disposed along a side edge of the thermographic material such that, when imaged, the third area has an image density of about D_{max} of the thermographic material.